

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 20, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Patrick L. Painter
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. Margaret Dayton, Senate Vice Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Sylvia S. Andersen
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m. Sen. Dayton and Sen. Romero were excused from attending the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Frank moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Painter was absent for the vote.

2. Legal Counsel for State Board of Education

Rep. Hughes distributed and read a letter addressed to Sen. Stephenson from Mr. Kim R. Burningham, State Board of Education Chair, that indicated that the Board declined to send a representative to attend the Education Interim Committee meeting.

Mr. Ray Hintze, Deputy Attorney General, and Mr. William Evans, Education Chief, Utah Attorney General's Office, distributed and presented an overview of "Summary Attorney General Position on Who May Appoint Legal Counsel for State Board of Education/State Office of Education."

Mr. Evans explained that the attorney general has broad constitutional and statutory powers and duties to provide legal counsel to all state entities and offices unless otherwise provided by the state constitution or statutes. The State Board of Education and State Office of Education do not have any constitutional or statutory exemption that allows them to hire their own attorney. Therefore, the Attorney General is their sole legal counsel.

After review of the memorandum and opinion of the attorney general, Mr. Evans and Mr. Hintze responded to committee members' questions.

3. Professional Development Pilot Program

Mr. Larry Shumway, Director, Educator Quality Services, State Board of Education, distributed a handout, "Professional Development Pilot Program (53A-3-702) Report to the Legislature." He reported and made recommendations regarding a pilot program that reduces the school term by up to 22 hours for the purpose of conducting professional development for instructional staff. He noted that without legislative action, the program will expire at the end of the 2007-2008 school year. It was recommended that the modest scheduling flexibility allowed in the pilot program be made permanent under the provisions of statute and State Board of Education rule.

Chair Stephenson said that draft legislation will be prepared to extend the Professional Development Pilot Program and brought back for the Committee to review.

4. Indicators of School Quality

Rep. Jack R. Draxler said the presentation on Indicators of School Quality will show how the Center for the School of the Future has been able to help school districts throughout the state. He would like to introduce the program to the Committee and then come up with ideas on how to incentivize schools to use the program. He introduced Dr. Richard West, Director, Center for the School of the Future, Utah State University, who made the presentation.

Dr. West distributed a packet of information and presented a slide presentation on "Center for The School of the Future." He noted that the Center for the School of the Future at Utah State University has developed a comprehensive survey system for school administrators to evaluate the school learning environment. ISQ (Indicators of School Quality) measures parent, teacher, and student perceptions of characteristics of the school environment that correlate with academic achievement. He explained that the Center for the School of the Future is a research center in the College of Education and Human Services dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of education through identifying, researching, and developing proven educational practices and supporting their dissemination and adoption in local circumstances.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Holdaway moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Gowans and Rep. Painter absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.